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Approved For Release 2005/11/21 : CIA-RDP79-00957A000100060024-8

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13 June 1973

Note for: GLC
JMM

For review. This has been coordinated with OGC. If you approve, we will prepare for forwarding to OMB and Stennis.

PLC

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DRAFT: PLC 11 June 1973

Honorable John C. Stennis, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in reply to your letter dated 11 May 1973, requesting our recommendations concerning S. Con Res. 23, "To Establish a Joint Committee on Information and Intelligence."

S. Con. Res. 23 establishes a Joint Committee on Information and Intelligence comprised of membership from the House and Senate to make continuing studies of (1) the activities of each information and intelligence agency of Government, (2) the relationships between information and intelligence agencies and U.S. corporations abroad and the effect of such relationships upon U.S. foreign policy and intelligence operations abroad, (3) the problems relating to information and intelligence programs and (4) the problems related to the gathering of information and intelligence affecting the national security and its coordination and utilization by the various departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S.

We note that Section 2(c) of the bill identifies any Executive unit conducting "information" activities as coming under the purview of the proposed joint committee. It would appear that under this broad definition

practically every Executive agency would be included. We also note that Section 3(a) provides that all bills, resolutions, and other matters in the Congress relating primarily to any intelligence agency or its activities shall be referred to the joint committee. The joint committee would therefore assume the oversight responsibilities over CIA presently exercised by the Senate and House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees.

We feel, however, that we should not offer any recommendations concerning legislation which proposes changes to the organization of committees. The Congress itself can best determine the structure of committees it deems most effective to carry out legislative and oversight responsibilities.

Accordingly, we offer no recommendations concerning S. Con. Res. 23.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby